perhaps based on organ system. This provides more clarity and flexibility to both the primary care physician and the specialist.

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Vascular disease and injury

Daniel Simon, Campbell Rogers; Totowa; 2000; Humana; 347 pages; $135.

In the preface the authors state that "no one resource is available for a comprehensive presentation of animal models related to vascular disease . . . [his book was designed to] provide such a medium by presenting topics related to vascular injury in an organized and comprehensive fashion." In my opinion the authors have more than adequately fulfilled this mission and have provided us with a timely review of the current information on animal models with special reference to cell and molecular biology. The editors, Daniel Simon and Campbell Rogers, are established vascular biology investigators that utilize rabbit and mouse models. They have successfully organized a very distinguished panel of contributors to synthesize the ever-burgeoning wealth of new information derived from the various animal models.

The book contains 347 pages and is divided into five sections based on vascular pathology: Acute Mechanical Injury and Vascular Repair, Arterial Thrombosis, Chronic Atherosclerosis, Vascular Disease in Transplanted Vessels, and Arterial Hypertension. There is a sixth section that deals exclusively with Animal Care and tissue-processing issues. Each section consists of three or more chapters, each written by an acknowledged expert, that outline species and technique variations.

This is an outstanding contribution to vascular surgery and vascular biology research. The details for each model are explicitly written and well illustrated with photographs. This makes it simple for those new to the model to follow the technical procedures. A catalog of supplies and instruments needed is also included for each animal model.

Furthermore, the editors have also ensured that there is sufficient detail regarding the biologic and pathologic characterization of the models. The contributors have included a synopsis of the pertinent information that has been obtained by investigators that use the models. Some of these chapters are of sufficient caliber to qualify as stand-alone review articles. In this regard, one potential problem with a scientific opus of this magnitude is that there can be a considerable delay from the time of manuscript preparation to publication of the book. The very nature of the information that is being transmitted is such that the information is continuously being refined, updated, and sometimes repudiated. However, I was pleased to note that in almost all of the chapters the references were complete with many citations from 1999 included.

Overall, I found this book easy to read and very informative. I believe that specific chapters of this book will be of tremendous interest to residents and fellows in vascular surgery that are in or headed into a laboratory given the depth of the discussions. The book is therefore a must for the reference library and the scientific laboratory and a welcome resource for surgeons who need to get a quick comprehensive overview of the various animal models and progress in the interpretation of the findings.

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